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Thursday, September 5, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

US Senate panel approves use of force against Syria

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama's plan to conduct punishing military strikes on Syria passed its first congressional hurdle Wednesday, paving the way for a full Senate debate on the use of force.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved an

amended resolution 10-7, with one senator, the chamber's newest member Edward Markey, voting present, that authorizes US military intervention with a 90-day deadline and bars American boots on the ground for combat purposes.

Senate leaders have said the full chamber will debate and vote next week on authorization of the use of force in response to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's apparent use of chemical weapons against his own people.

The House of Representatives, where a tougher vote is expected, will begin consideration next week but its leaders have not announced the timing.

"What we've done today is a step in the right direction. I hope it makes a safer world," said Senator Dick Durbin.

The chamber's number two Democrat voted against the war in Iraq, but he insisted that "this is different."

"I really believe there is a moral component here that's critically important," he said, citing how all members of the committee are horrified by the abhorrent attacks by Assad.

Senator Robert Menendez, the committee's chairman, said the amended, bipartisan resolution marks "a good foundation" for passing the Senate.

"This resolution strikes the type of balance that we are hearing from members on both sides of the aisle in both houses as to what their concerns are."

Lawmakers tweaked the resolution to include language sought by Republican Senator John McCain, who had threatened a no vote unless the measure addressed efforts to change the "momentum" on the battlefield in Syria.

"Any observer would agree that unless Bashar al-Assad believes that he is going to lose, it will be impossible for him to negotiate a peaceful settlement and departure from Syria," McCain told the committee as it debated and ultimately approved his amendment.

McCain voted yes for the resolution, but five Republicans, including two potential 2016 presidential candidates, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio, voted against.

Dragstock slated to be big weekend for team Aruba



UNION, S.C.: ADRL's Dragstock event has become legendary in its own right, and as such, is the highlight of the year for many racers and fans. For the gang from Aruba, Dragstock is also 'home stop' on the tour, easily making this the biggest event of the season for the Aruba.com Extreme Pro Stock Team. Although much of the team hails from Aruba, their shop is based out of Union, S.C. - a short drive from Rockingham Dragway where Dragstock is held.

Dragstock is a week-long event for Team Aruba, with area displays for associate sponsor Alltel Wireless in the days leading up to the event, testing on Thursday and the highly anticipated Battle for the Belts Shootout on Friday before Dragstock qualifying actually begins on Saturday.

"This is probably the longest and busiest race of the entire 2013 ADRL Tour for us," told driver Trevor Eman. "We really enjoy the added festivities surrounding this event."

Continued on pg 3

National Hurricane Center tracking tropical wave in the Caribbean

A tropical wave in the northeast Caribbean is getting better organized as it moves west-northwest toward Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, according to the National Hurricane Center.

The system's winds were clocked at 36 mph Wednesday, three mph below the threshold to be classified as a tropical storm.

Wind shear in the area is low which will likely help the system to become better organized during the next 48 hours.

The National Hurricane Center boosted the 5-day odds of formation of the wave into a tropical storm to 60 percent, and the 2-day odds to 40 percent.

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Ministers Oduber and Sevinger were present at RWZI in Parkietenbos when the UV Purification System for water for farmers arrived.

This new system will provide totally free water to all our local farmers!

This is a government initiative together with Santa Rosa, which began back in 2010, when the decision was made to invest in a purification system at the RWZI Plant at Parkietenbos. Our farmers have been already using of this water, but at a given moment the supply was not enough for the growing need.

One of the most important elements for a farmer is water. Water happens to be rather expensive for agriculture on Aruba. The fact that our farmers plant almost all year round, and not only in the rainy season, the extra water is a necessity for them. The installation of the new UV system will issue a new history for Aruba, making it possible for our farmers to plant the whole year round.

This is an investment of Santa Rosa costing somewhat more than half a million Florins; producing clean water available to farmers the entire year.

The government also reported that in the coming weeks they will be erecting windmills at different spots around the island. This will enable them to open 5 water wells; another investment of 500 thousand Florins.

In this way the government is helping our local farmers and at the same time providing incentives for the practice of more agriculture on the island.



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Dragstock slated to be big weekend for team Aruba

Continued from pg 1

Alltel is a great sponsor and doing the displays gives us a chance to interact with our fans from Alltel, as well as spread the word about the upcoming event.

"We're especially looking forward to participating in the Battle for the Belts. It's a huge privilege to qualify for such a prestigious event," Eman said of the Shootout that takes only the top eight in points from each category. "Our goal is obviously to make three consistent and quick runs and take home the Belt. However, we have come such a long way in our Pro Stock career that just being a contender in this event is rewarding."

"After the Battle is over on Friday, we still have major work cut out for us on Saturday and Sunday. Although we're currently in fourth place in points, we still have an opportunity to win the Extreme Pro Stock Championship. Keeping ourselves in a position to do this will depend greatly on our performance this weekend. We have a good race car with good power, we can't thank our chassis builder and engine builder enough. Our team is more than capable of getting the job done, so we are fully ready to do well this weekend."

Being close to home has its advantages and for Eman and Team Aruba, this means added support. "Rockingham is always a nice facility to race at since we can consider it our home track. So besides it being a real busy week for us, it is also the race we have probably been looking forward to the most. We always

have plenty of friends from the area around our shop in Union, S.C. that join us for this race, and thanks to direct flights from Aruba to Charlotte, this race is also the easiest travel distance for our Aruba friends and family. So it will be great to have plenty of moral support on our side both from Aruba and S.C. We're also happy to welcome Alltel representatives to Dragstock. It looks like we'll have full pits and plenty of support! Bottom line is, we are looking forward to a great weekend of racing surrounded by great people."

Watch Trevor and Team Aruba at the ADRL Dragstock X this weekend via ADRL.us Live Feed.

Keep up with Team Aruba at www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing and on Twitter @TeamArubaRacing.

Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba!

For more on your Aruba vacation visit www.Aruba.com and www.Destination-Magazines.com.

Monster tsunami could devastate California: study

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A tsunami generated by a massive earthquake off Alaska could cause major damage to California's economy and force 750,000 people to evacuate, a report published Wednesday warned.




One third of all boats in California's marinas could be damaged or sunk, costing some \$700 million in losses,

while major ports would struggle to get huge cargo vessels out to sea in time to avoid being buffeted by tsunamis.

Experts from the US Geological Survey (USGS) based their damage assessment on the scenario of a 9.1 magnitude quake off Alaska's Pacific Coast, which it said was "hypothetical but plausible."

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Queen Máxima to sit next to king for his first budget day speech

Queen Máxima will break new ground on September 17 when she sits next to king Willem-Alexander as he gives his first speech from the throne ahead of the 2014 budget presentation.

Until now, the wives of kings have not sat next to their husbands during the ceremony,



the AD reports on Tuesday.

Prince Claus, husband of the then queen Beatrix, did, however, sit next to his wife.

In addition, Beatrix will not attend the traditional event this year, nor will her sister Margriet and her husband Pieter van Vollenhoven,

the AD said.

The speech from the throne is given by the monarch to both houses of parliament and their guests in the Ridderzaal in The Hague. The speech looks back to past events and gives a broad outline of cabinet policy for the coming year.

Shana Tova and a happy, healthy 5774 to all our Jewish residents and visitors



Rabbi Daniel Kripper

Yesterday evening, Aruba's Jewish community and visitors joined their brethren around the world in welcoming the year of 5774 as Rosh Hashanah, the start of the High Holy Days, was ob-



Blowing the shofar

the first month of the calendar, which is Nissan; the holiday takes place on the first two days of the seventh month.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of an important, ten-day period of self-reflection and spiritual contemplation called Aseret Yemei Teshuva-The Ten Days of Repentance, culminating in the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The third day of this period, after the feasting of the New Year, is the Fast of Gedalia. It is a half day fast, meaning it is only observed from dawn of the third day until dusk of that same day. Yom Kippur entails an entire day of fasting and prayer.

One of the most important rituals of Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the Shofar, a ram's horn, to welcome the New Year. In the bible, the day is not referred to as Rosh Hashanah but rather Yom HaZikaron, "Day of Remembrance" or Yom Truah, "The Day of the Sounding of the Shofar". Traditionally, a total of 100 notes will be sounded each day.

Certain foods consumed on the holiday are integral to

the harvest and have significance. Apples dipped in honey are symbolic of a wish for a sweet new year. At this time, the usual practice of sprinkling salt on bread is replaced with honey for the same reason. The holiday bread, Challah, is round, instead of the usual Sabbath braid, embodying the circle of life and the return of a new year. It will also be in the shape of a crown, as the lord is often referred to as royalty during prayers over the holiday.

Another tradition is Tashlikh, the act of "casting off." It is performed on the afternoon of the first day, and entails walking to flowing water, where the contents of worshipers' pockets are tossed into the river-a symbolic casting off of sins.

Temple Beth Israel's Rabbi Daniel Kripper conducted last night's service and sermon. Here is the schedule of services for today and tomorrow:

- September 5th - Shacharit, 9:00 AM. Avinu Malkeinu, Torah reading, the Shofar blowing, and the highlight of the Musaf service. Sermon

- Tashlich 5:30 PM at the beach followed by Arvit Service at 6:30 PM, with a Festive Community Dinner afterwards.

- September 6th - 9:00 AM. Torah reading and Shofar service

For more information about Aruba's Temple Beth Israel and services visit their website: <http://www.bethisraelaruba.com/> or call 582-3272. The synagogue is located in Oranjestad at Adriaan Lacle Boulevard #2.

By Rosalie Klein



Apples dipped in honey

served at Temple Beth Israel synagogue in Oranjestad.

The observance of Rosh Hashanah, "The Head of the Year," takes place over the first two days of the month of Tishri on the Jewish calendar. It is a celebration of the harvest, and also the anniversary of what is believed to be the creation of Adam and Eve. It



is not actually the first day of



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Court Introduces Code Of Conduct For Judges



WILLEMSTAD - The Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba has recently introduced a code of conduct for judges. In this code provisions are included concerning the impartiality of (full-time) judges, their other positions and how they may claim certain expenses.

By State decree (Article 3 of the National Order status Common Court of Justice) it has been determined previously that the administration of the Common Court of Justice will establish a code of good judicial acts. After having met with all the judges, the administration of the Court adopted the code of conduct on 15 August of this year. The Dutch version of the code was published yesterday on the website of the Court. The Papiamentu and English version of the code will be added soon on the website.

The purpose of this code of conduct for judges is to ensure the professional and meticulous pursuit of the work of a judge as well as possible. In the State decree there are already a number of laws to which judges must adhere. The Code now provides a more specific interpretation of those rules and includes provisions on impar-

tiality, other positions and declarations.

The Code of Conduct focuses on the responsibility of judges and their own awareness of the consequences and impact of their behavior and act as a judge. The Code of Conduct serves as a guide to which judges can focus on attending to their responsibilities. Their work also affects their personal life, therefore, there is attention dedicated to that in the code. The Code of Conduct of the Joint Court is in line with the international development (including the United Nations' Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary) and regional development (such as the code of judicial conduct of the Caribbean Court of Justice).

REMEMBER

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NY mayor rivals jockey for black vote as race heats up



De Blasio with wife and son

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - New Yorkers have their pick when it comes to diversity among the candidates hoping to replace their brash, billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

There is a married lesbian, an African-American and a six-foot something white guy with a bi-racial family among those slugging it out for the Democratic nomination in September 10 primary elections.

But it is the latter, 52-year-old Bill de Blasio, who has surged ahead of the pack and, in a rather strange twist, is the current favorite among black voters.

A Quinnipiac University poll recently showed that if the election happened now, 34 percent of black voters would choose De Blasio compared to 25 percent for African-American candidate William Thompson, who narrowly missed beating Bloomberg in 2009.

De Blasio, the most left-leaning among the Democratic hopefuls, has muscled out earlier frontrunner Christine Quinn, the city council speaker who is openly married to another woman.

Seen as the anti-Bloomberg candidate, the city's tall, greying public advocate De Blasio has hinged his campaign on inequality, describing New York as "a tale of two cities," the rich and the poor.

He has honed in on the highly emotional debate over stop-and-frisk, a police tactic loathed by black and Hispanic communities who see themselves as unfairly targeted.

All the main Democratic candidates have campaigned on the need for some sort of reform to stop-and-frisk, even more so since a federal judge said police were using racial profiling and ruled the tactic unconstitutional two weeks ago.

But voter Norman Frazier, 61, said De Blasio has been the most convincing.

"Quinn and Thompson to

me don't wanna speak out" against stop-and-frisk, Frazier told AFP at a campaign event in Brooklyn.

"From the very beginning, he (De Blasio) was against it... now they are jumping on the bandwagon."

It does not hurt that De Blasio is married to a black woman -- an outspoken lesbian until she fell in love with him -- and has prominently featured his bi-racial family during the campaign.

His 15-year-old son Dante with his towering Afro has become a social media sensation in his own right, with De Blasio promoting the Twitter hashtag "go with the 'fro'."

In one video, De Blasio says he and his wife "have talked to Dante many times about the fact that some day you will be stopped."

The practice of randomly stopping individuals and searching them was seen by many as key to bringing criminality to heel in the once violence-wracked city.

Analyst Fred Siegel of the Manhattan Institute thinktank blamed Bloomberg for enforcing police quotas that saw stop-and-frisk get out of hand.

"I have been stopped quite a few times," said John Bigelow, 49, a Hispanic laborer from Canarsie in Brooklyn.

"It is not a good thing and very embarrassing getting stopped in my own neighbourhood."

Samuel Abrams, a political scientist at New York's Sarah Lawrence College, said De Blasio was scoring points as the "populist anti-Bloomberg, anti-corporate" candidate.

His boldest proposal is a tax on those who earn over \$500,000 to pay for after-school care for young children.

"In New York, personality matters. New Yorkers have had enough of the brash, pushy mayor. Many love it, a lot of people don't."

A multi-billionaire Manhattanite, Bloomberg has ruled New York for 12 years,

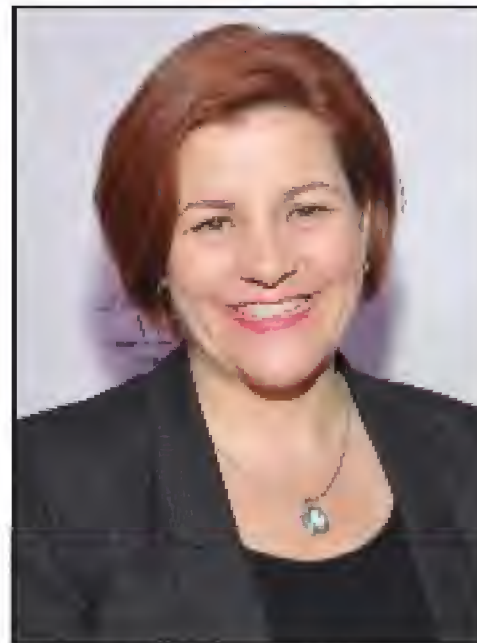
after cajoling City Council into lifting a two-term limit in 2009.

He has presided over a falling murder rate and aggressively pushed sweeping public health policies, but has been accused of check-book diplomacy and seeking nanny-state reforms.

Siegel said it may be 47-year-old Quinn's image as the "natural" successor to Bloomberg that has hit her popularity, at a time when most New Yorkers are looking for a "clean break."

Recent polls dealt a stunning blow to Quinn's campaign while she was still basking in endorsements from several top newspapers.

A New York Times/Siena College poll last Friday gave



Christine Quinn

De Blasio 32 percent of the polls if the primary were held now.

Quinn fell back with 17 percent and former city comptroller Thompson was given 18 percent. Anthony

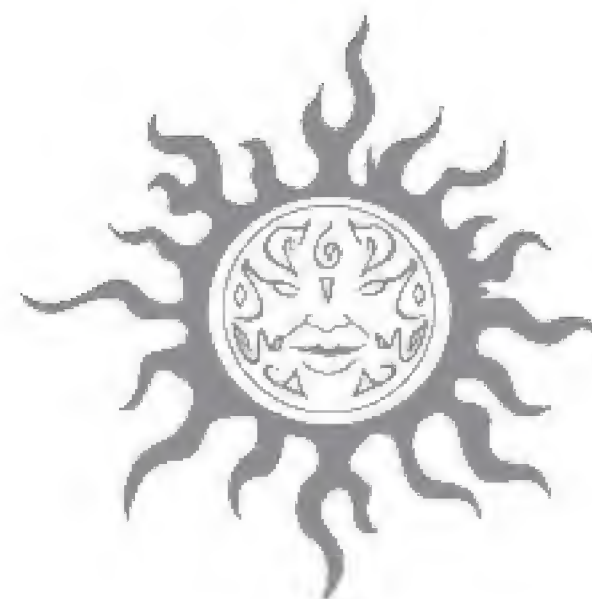
Weiner, a onetime frontrunner engulfed in a sexting scandal, lagged behind at 11 percent.

Analysts say predicting a victor is practically impossible in a city where voter interest is "ridiculously low."

In 2009, barely 29 percent of voters cast ballots.

"In a New York minute, everything can change. The race is beginning to take shape but it's still up for grabs," said Abrams, adding he thought Quinn had the biggest machinery to lure voters out.

The Big Apple is overwhelmingly Democratic, making that party's candidate most likely to win against the Republican pick in the mayoral election on November 5.



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Cleveland kidnapper found hanged in US prison cell

CHICAGO (AFP) - Ariel Castro, the American who held three young women captive for a decade, was found hanged in the Ohio prison where he was serving a life sentence, officials said Wednesday.

The death of the 53-year-old brought an abrupt and dramatic ending to a sordid case that shocked the United States and the world with revelations of depravity and brutality carried out in an ordinary Cleveland home.

Castro was being held in protective custody, which means he was in a cell by himself and guards checked on him every 30 minutes.

Officials tried in vain to resuscitate Castro after his body was discovered at 9:20 pm Tuesday (0120 GMT Wednesday) at the Correctional Reception Center in Orient. He was pronounced dead about 90 minutes later.

"It does appear to be an apparent case of suicide," JoEllen Smith, a spokes-

woman for the Ohio prisons department, told AFP.

Castro was sentenced to life in prison plus an additional 1,000 years for the repeated rape and beatings of his victims.

His crimes -- committed when he imprisoned the women in a so-called 'house of horrors' -- led to an outpouring of national pity for the three victims, Amanda Berry, now 27; Gina DeJesus, 23; and Michelle Knight, 32.

They were abducted separately between 2002 and 2004 at the ages of 14, 16, and 20 and held captive in a working class neighborhood of Cleveland.

Berry, DeJesus and Knight did not immediately release a statement in reaction to Castro's death. However prosecutors called him a degenerate molester and said he took the coward's way out.

"This man couldn't take, for even a month, a small portion of what he had dished out for more than a decade," said Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty in a scathing statement.

Comments posted on the website of the main Cleveland newspaper, The Plain Dealer, were merciless.

"Adios diablo, may you burn for 1,000 years, just like you were sentenced," one said.

Castro's attorney expressed frustration Wednesday that his client was able to kill himself after having been removed from suicide watch.

Mexico leader to discuss alleged US spying with Obama

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said Wednesday he would voice concerns about alleged US spying on his emails to US counterpart Barack Obama, warning it would be illegal if proven true.

The two leaders will come face to face at the Group of 20 meeting in Russia on Thursday, four days after a US journalist reported that the National Security Agency snoop on the on-line activities of the Brazilian and Mexican leaders.

The new claims of spying in Latin America came two months after allegations of widespread US electronic espionage in the region that infuriated allies and rivals alike.

"If it is proven that an action took place, with the use of espionage means, this is clearly not permitted and it is outside the law," Pena Nieto told reporters during a layover in Canada on his way to Saint Petersburg.

"There will surely be space at the G20 for some sort of meeting, either casual or informal, with the US president to make our position very clear," he said, recalling that his government has asked the United States to investigate the matter.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff is already in Russia for the G20 talks and she is scheduled to visit Obama in Washington next month, though Foreign Minister Luiz Alberto Figueiredo refused to say this week whether the trip would be affected.




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Syria says will never give in 'even if there is WWII'

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria said Wednesday it had taken "every measure" to retaliate if hit by a feared US-led military strike and would never give in, even if a third world war erupts.

In an exclusive interview with AFP, Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Muqdad also insisted that Russia had not wavered in its support, despite comments by President Vladimir Putin suggesting a more conciliatory tone towards the West.

"Syria has taken every measure to retaliate against... an aggression," he said, although he refused to provide any clue as to what that might mean.

"The Syrian government will not change position even if there is World War III. No Syrian can sacrifice the independence of his country," he added.

The regime categorically denies any responsibility for the alleged attack in Damascus suburbs and has said it is cooperating with UN inspectors who are currently analysing samples taken from the sites of the suspected incident.

Analysts fear that the con-

flict currently tearing Syria apart will spill over permanently into fragile, neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, where supporters of the Damascus regime are already pitted against its opponents.

And allies Russia and Iran have warned that any military intervention would have devastating regional consequences.

But in an interview broadcast earlier Wednesday, Putin appeared to strike a more conciliatory note by saying he did not exclude agreeing to strikes if it was proven the regime had carried out the alleged gas attack.

Yet Muqdad stressed that Moscow had not wavered in its support of Damascus.

"The Russian position is unchanged; it's a responsible position of a friend that is in favour of peace," he said.

Moscow warned on Wednesday that any US Congress approval for a military strike against Syria without UN approval would represent an "aggression" and that such action could have far-reaching nuclear security implications.

China's Xi, Turkmen leader unveil massive gas field

GALKYNYSH GAS FIELD (AFP) - Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Turkmen host on Wednesday launched production from the world's second-largest gas field in Turkmenistan in the latest sign of Beijing's growing presence in Central Asia.

"The implementation of this project is a bright testament to cooperation between the two countries in the energy sphere," said Turkmen leader Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov at the vast Galkynysh (Renaissance) gas field that is being jointly developed with China.

"This is the most powerful complex in the region with a capacity of 30 billion cubic meters of gas a year."

Speaking at a gas processing plant in the vast Turkmen desert, Xi added: "This is a successful example of cooperation between China and Turkmenistan in the energy sphere."

The Galkynysh field is estimated to have up to 21.2 trillion cubic meters of gas and more than 300 million tonnes of oil.

India's new central bank chief warns of unpopular steps to fight crisis

MUMBAI (AFP) - Top economist Raghuram Rajan warned Wednesday that he may have to take unpopular steps to tackle India's worst economic crisis in decades as he took over as the central bank's new chief.

Rajan, a former IMF chief economist, sought to reassure rattled markets, saying India faced tough challenges but was fundamentally sound, as policymakers battle a plummeting rupee and decade-low growth.

But in his first public comments after taking over as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor earlier Wednesday, Rajan added that "some of the actions I take will not be popular", without detailing them.

"The governorship of the

central bank is not meant to win one votes or Facebook 'likes'. But I hope to do the right thing, no matter what the criticism, even while looking to learn from the criticism," he said in a televised statement.

Rajan, famed for forecasting the 2008 global financial crisis, takes over from incumbent Duvvuri Subbarao, as India's once-booming economy is caught in a quagmire of sharply slowing growth, high inflation, a record current account deficit and sliding currency.

Some analysts fear Asia's third-largest economy could be heading for a meltdown with the rupee down around 17 percent against the dollar this year.

Rajan stressed that he

would hew to the RBI's mandate of "securing monetary stability" and sustaining confidence in the value of the country's money, which means "low and stable inflation".

He added that the RBI needed to be a "beacon of responsibility" and that protecting the value of money against corrosion of inflation was crucial.

Subbarao said earlier Wednesday that his successor was in for a bumpy ride with an economy that grew at a decade low of five percent in the last financial year -- way below the near double-digit levels notched up during the heady noughties.

"The country could not have asked for a more capable person to lead the RBI in

these most difficult times," he added.

Rajan will take charge operationally on Thursday at the bank's headquarters in financial hub Mumbai.

Investors are looking to Rajan to introduce policies to calm jittery markets and stabilise the rupee.

"It would be unfair to expect magic from one person," said Siddhartha Sanyal, chief India economist with Barclays Capital.

"But he is well-equipped to deliver the best one can, given his credentials."

Abheek Barua, chief economist with HDFC Bank, called Rajan "more innovative" than Subbarao, who spent five years at the helm of the RBI, and said that he expected him to "be more aggressive".

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Tornados tear off roofs in eastern Japan



TOKYO (AFP) - Tornadoes hit eastern Japan on Wednesday, tearing off roofs, shattering windows and injuring at least three people, two days after twisters ripped through other parts of the region.

Television footage showed badly damaged houses in Yaita, around 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Tokyo, some with their roofs peeled off.

A 60-year-old man was slightly injured in Yaita, the local authority said.

Similar gusts also hit nearby Kanuma city, injuring at least two men, a local police spokesman said.

About 600 households lost power for around three hours in Yaita city, said Tokyo Electric Power, which covers the region.

Pictures posted on Twitter and other social networks showed a dark funnel of cloud stretching down to the ground, whipping up debris.

The weather agency said at least one tornado had torn through Yaita.

More than 60 buildings were partially damaged or totally destroyed in wider Tochigi prefecture, the local authority said.

The winds came after tornadoes wrought havoc in other parts of eastern Japan on Monday, with a large amount of damage in Koshigaya city, northwest of Tokyo.

A total of 63 people were injured and about 110 houses were damaged or destroyed in Koshigaya and surrounding areas.

International News

Vatican envoy sacked over child sex probe

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - The Vatican's envoy to the Dominican Republic has been sacked amid an investigation in Rome into accusations he had sex with children, a spokesman was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

Monsignor Josef Wesolowski, a 65-year-old Pole, has been the papal nuncio in Santo Domingo for over five years, the I.Media news agency on Vatican affairs reported quoting the spokesman.

The Dominican press said the diplomat had sex for money with underage boys in the "Zona colonial", the historic centre of Santo Domingo.

The cleric was ordained in 1972 by the then archbishop of Krakow, cardinal Karol Wojtyla, who later became pope John Paul II.

John Paul II appointed him nuncio to Bolivia, his first posting. Wesolowski also worked in several countries in Central Asia and was appointed to the Dominican Republic by Benedict XVI in 2008.

Pope Francis has vowed to crack down against abuse in the Catholic Church, reiterating the zero-tolerance approach eventually taken up by his predecessor Benedict XVI following a wave of revelations.

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300,000 attempts to view online porn from British parliament



automatically refreshing, while pop-up adverts not requested by users could also have added to the count.

They are also investigating huge variation in the monthly number of attempts to access pornographic websites, with nearly 115,000 attempts in November 2012 but only 15 last February.

The data was released Tuesday in response to a freedom of information request by the Huffington Post UK website.

A spokeswoman for the House of Commons, the country's lower chamber, said: "We do not consider the data to provide an accurate representation of the number of purposeful requests made by network users due to the variety of ways in which websites can be designed to act, react and interact and due to the potential operation of third party software."

LONDON (AFP) - British parliamentary authorities monitored nearly 300,000 attempts to access pornography from their computers in the last year, official records show.

The figures, released by the IT department for the Houses of Parliament, cover computers used by more than 1,300 lawmakers, their staff and other parliamentary employees.

But officials insisted the figures were inflated by websites

Russia suspends Syria S-300 missile deliveries: Putin

MOSCOW (AFP) - President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday revealed Russia had suspended deliveries of sophisticated S-300 missile systems to Syria even though some components had already been handed over.

Western governments have repeatedly condemned Russia for signing a contract to supply President Bashar al-Assad's regime with the S-300 air-defence systems which are among Russia's most prized military exports.

Russia has repeatedly insisted that the contract is being implemented but in an interview with Channel One state television Putin said deliveries had now been suspended, without making clear why.

The announcement appears

aimed at reassuring Russia's Western partners ahead of this week's G20 summit in Saint Petersburg.

The West and Israel argued that delivery of the sophisticated weaponry by Moscow would hand Damascus the firepower to hit back at possible air attacks.

Putin acknowledged that the S-300 systems were not Russia's most modern weaponry but also could not resist opining that they are a "bit better than the (US) Patriots, for example".

The S-300 surface-to-air missile systems were first developed under the Soviet Union but new versions also appeared after the collapse of the USSR.

A military source told the

state RIA Novosti news agency Wednesday that the components delivered by Moscow to Damascus were thus far not enough to mount a single complete S-300 missile system and could not be used as a weapon.

Syria has paid a deposit of several hundred million dollars, the sources told the newspaper.

According to Russian media reports, the contract with Damascus is for between three to six missile system units and worth \$1 billion.

The suspension of deliveries to Damascus comes after Russia in 2010 cancelled a contract to sell Iran S-300 systems in a deal that was estimated to have been worth some \$800 million.

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Health & Living

Video game helps elderly keep their minds sharp

PARIS (AFP) - A video game can help elderly people fight cognitive decline, scientists reported in the journal Nature.

The novel game shows the brain is more "plastic," or versatile, in healthy ageing people than thought, which opens up new paths for warding off mental decay, its inventors said.

Devised by researchers at the University of California at San Francisco, NeuroRacer requires participants to race a car around a winding road while a series of road signs pop up.

Drivers are told to keep alert for a specific kind of road sign, and to press a button when it

appears.

The point is to encourage multitasking, an ability that typically goes into dramatic decline as we age.

The investigators recruited volunteers aged 60-85 years old and trained them on a laptop for 12 hours, spread over a month.

Rather basic in looks, the 3D game had hidden complexities, pushing participants to go further once they had mastered a skill.

By the end of their training, the group were as good at the game as people in their 20s who were playing it for the first

time. Six months later the skills of the elderly participants were just as good.

The improvement not only boosted the ability to cope with several tasks at the same time. It also enhanced working memory and sustained attention.

While they trained on the game, the participants wore caps with sensors that measured activity in various parts of the brain.

As the older participants got better and better at the game, this cerebral network strengthened, adding to evidence that they able to focus on a multiple task for longer.

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Carrot and Mint "Juice" -- It might sound icky, but this concoction is helpful if you're suffering from flu; the carrot provides nourishment and peppermint soothes your upset stomach. Boil four sliced carrots, four cups of water, and one teaspoon of dried peppermint or one peppermint teabag. Turn the heat to medium-low and cook about 15 minutes or until carrots are soft. If you're using a teabag, remove it, then blend the mixture until smooth and enjoy! You can also add a pinch of ground ginger to further soothe, or a squeeze of lemon juice for flavor.



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Ecuador seeks penalties for libel on social networks

QUITO (AFP) - The Ecuadorian government has proposed legal changes to punish libel disseminated over social networks like Twitter or Facebook, a top official said Wednesday.

Alexis Mera, President Rafael Correa's secretary for legal affairs, said the move aimed not to control content on social networks, but to extend to them the same rules that apply to other media.

"The same penalty that exists for defamation in the communications media, or in any other situation, is applicable in cases of defamation on social networks," Mera said.

Under Ecuador's penal code, slanderous libel, which involves a false accusation of a crime, carries a punishment of between six months and two years in prison.

Libel that simply impugns a person's honor is considered a lesser offense with lighter penalties.

The proposal, which has been presented to a congressional committee, comes against a backdrop of hostile relations between Correa and the country's privately owned media.

Correa has used the courts to sue for libel newspapers and journalists who have written critically about him.

The courts are currently considering a constitutional challenge brought against a controversial new communications law that would reduce the private sector's share of radio and television frequencies.

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Samsung launches Galaxy Gear smartwatch in Berlin

BERLIN (AFP) - South Korean electronics giant Samsung on Wednesday unveiled its hotly anticipated smartwatch the Galaxy Gear, which allows users to make calls, receive texts and emails and take photos.

JK Shin, head of Samsung's mobile division, predicted the Galaxy Gear -- effectively a mobile you wear on your wrist -- would become "a new fashion icon through the world" as he launched the device at the IFA consumer electronics fair in Berlin.

The new smartwatch has a



touch screen of barely more than four centimetres (1.6 inches) in a brushed-steel mount and wrist strap in six different colours. Contrary to rumours, it does not have a flexible screen.

Samsung is not the first

company to introduce a watch that connects via wifi to a smartphone, alerting its user to calls, texts and emails -- Casio, Sony or Pebble already have similar products.

However, with its arch rival Apple still to roll out its much

rumoured "iWatch", and the likes of Microsoft and Google not exhibiting at IFA, the South Korean giant has the field more or less to itself to wow the geeks.

Unlike its competitors, the Samsung device allows users to make calls without taking their phone out of their pocket -- instead, they can hold their wrist up to their ear and use the built-in speaker and microphone.

The Galaxy Gear will go on sale on September 25 and also has a tiny camera in its wrist strap.

Gadget geeks from all over the world have converged on Berlin this week.

The first two days, Wednesday and Thursday, are reserved for the press. After that IFA will open its doors to the general public from Friday through Wednesday to dazzle hi-tech freaks with the latest state-of-the-art gadgets on 145,000 square metres of exhibition space.

In fact, organisers boast there will be more world premieres at this year's IFA than ever before.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Will beneficiary
5. Air-rifle ammo
8. Scarlets and crimsons
12. Writer Stanley Gardner
13. False statement
14. Edison's middle name
15. Tormé and Brooks
16. Actress Lupino
17. Skyscraper, e.g. (abbr.)
18. Leia's "Star Wars" hero
20. Catch a criminal
22. Not tight
24. Cricket noise
27. Incompetent
28. Narc's org.
29. "___ a Camera" (2 wds.)
31. Budge
32. Holds
33. Raring to go
34. Edgar Allan ___
35. Bland fish
36. Cowgirl Dale
37. Dwarf planet
39. October birthstones
40. Upper-classmen (abbr.)
41. Damage slightly
42. Curved gateway

45. Clock numeral

47. Some PCs
51. Canter
52. Superlative suffix
53. Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
54. "King ___"
55. Chambers (abbr.)
56. "Spartacus," e.g.

DOWN

1. Finish a home ec project
2. Bard's "before"
3. Sick
4. Mold anew
5. Involuntary wink
6. Bridge action
7. "Rap" sessions
8. Synagogue

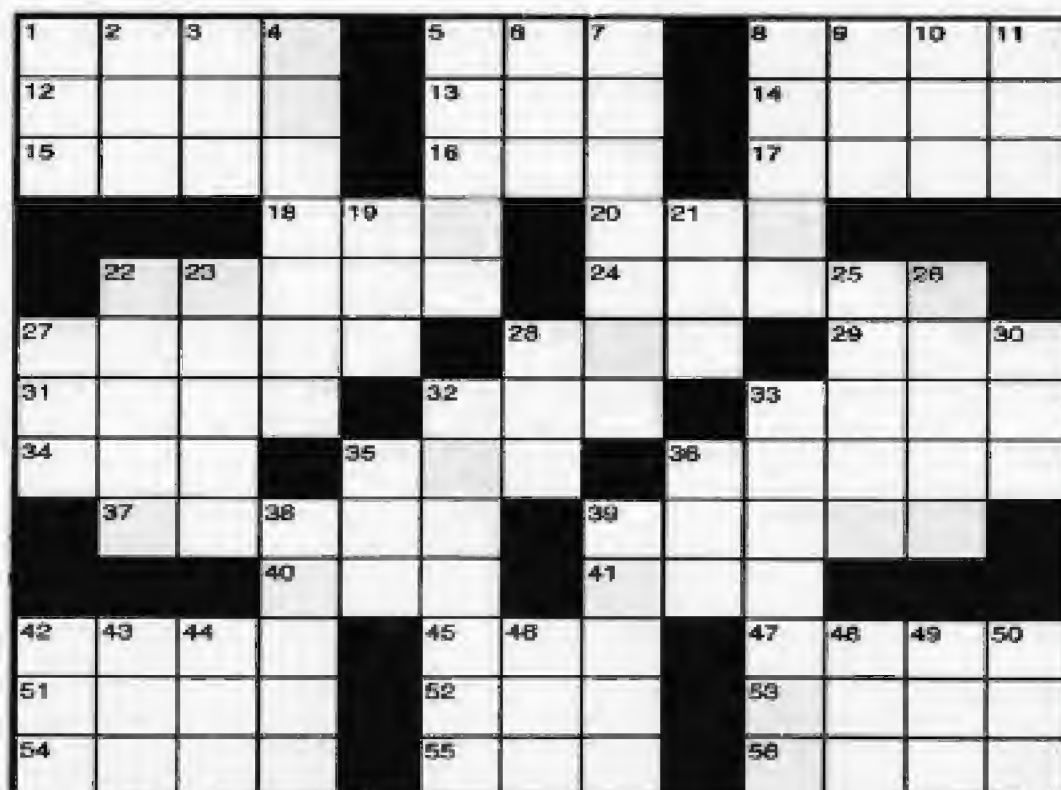
leader

9. Building extension
10. Movie-at-home format (abbr.)
11. Sink down
19. Caught in the ___
21. "Just as I thought!"
22. Be nosy
23. Smooth
25. Adversary
26. Distresses
27. Rapsallion
28. June celebrant
30. Physicians (abbr.)
32. Indiana native
33. Greediness
35. Middle (abbr.)
36. Clean air agcy.
38. Wedding attendant

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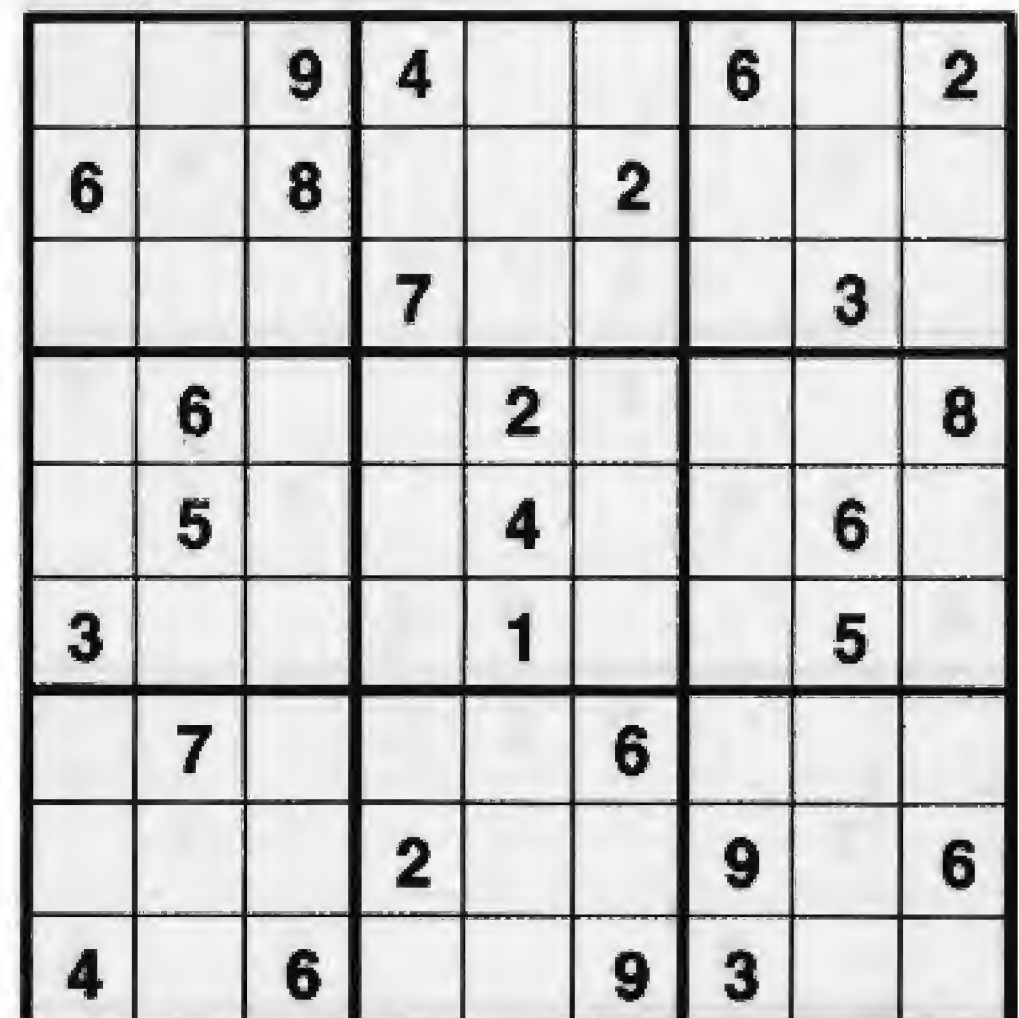
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9	2	6	4	8	2	1	8	9
1	2	4	9	5	8	6	2	6
4	9	2	8	1	9	2	5	8
6	9	1	2	4	6	2	5	8
8	6	2	6	2	5	4	9	1
6	8	1	9	2	5	4	9	2
2	4	9	2	6	8	5	1	9
2	1	9	5	9	4	6	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 09/04/2013

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.72
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	191.38
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	236.94
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.45
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.01
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.86
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	180.79

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Africa's richest man plans refinery, plants worth \$9 bn

LAGOS (AFP) - Africa's richest man announced plans Wednesday to build a refinery as well as petrochemical and fertiliser plants worth some \$9 billion, promising to reduce Nigeria's dependency on imported fuel.

The plans were announced by Dangote Industries Limited, headed by Aliko Dangote, a Nigerian businessman labeled Africa's richest man by Forbes.

According to a statement, the firm signed a loan deal with a consortium of local and international banks for \$3.3 billion "for the purpose of constructing the biggest petroleum

oil refinery and petrochemical/fertiliser plants in Nigeria."

"The plants, which will cost a total of \$9 billion, will generate up to 9,500 direct and 25,000 indirect jobs, in addition to reducing current volumes of refined fuel imports by around 50 percent and effectively stopping the importation of fertiliser," the statement said.

Construction of the plants in the country's southwest is expected to be complete in three to four years, a spokesman said.

The deal could eventually prove pivotal for Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and largest oil producer, and other countries on the continent may also benefit.

Despite its oil reserves, Nigeria imports most of its fuel because its four refineries function well below capacity, a situation widely blamed on corruption and mismanagement.

The Dangote refinery is expected to reach a capacity of 400,000 barrels of crude oil per day, it said.

Dangote Group includes a wide range of interests, from cement to sugar and real estate.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

T	R	I	A	W	E	S	P	A	R
L	O	O	S	O	A	P	H	I	R
C	O	N	T	I	N	U	E	R	A
E	A	T	R	U	E				
P	R	E	E	N	C	I	N	D	E
L	O	A	N	S	H	O	E	T	E
A	V	G	S	I	D	W	H	E	E
N	E	E	N	H	L	G	E	E	S
D	R	O	N	E	R	I	E	S	
Q	W	E	L	O	G				
W	H	I	Z	N	E	I	G	H	O
V	A	L	E	S	N	A	G	A	C
A	L	L	S	D	R	Y	M	T	V

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FINANCE

Venezuela owes Conoco for seized oil assets: arbitrator

WASHINGTON (AFP) - An international arbitrator has ruled that Venezuela made no genuine effort to fairly compensate ConocoPhillips after seizing the US oil company's assets in the country.

The World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes effectively ruled Tuesday that Caracas is bound to pay Conoco fairly for the assets, which were nationalized in 2007 by the government of then-president Hugo Chavez.

Venezuela "breached its obligation to negotiate in good faith for compensation for its taking of the ConocoPhillips assets in the three projects on the basis of market value," the ICSID tribunal said.

Venezuela seized Conoco's Petrozuata and Hamaca heavy crude oil projects and the offshore Corocoro development as Chavez pursued more benefits from the oil industry for his government.

The government offered some compensation, but the

two sides could not agree, with Venezuela's offer based on book value rather than market value, according to the ruling.

Since then Caracas has not paid anything to the company; in its complaint Conoco said it was seeking \$30.3 billion for the loss of assets and potential income.

The ICSID declined to rule on the amount, saying the issue would be considered "at the conclusion of a later phase of this arbitration proceeding."

Conoco welcomed the decision.

IMF extends \$6.7 bn lifeline to Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund threw Pakistan a \$6.7 billion lifeline Wednesday to help the struggling nuclear-armed country achieve economic reforms, particularly in its troubled energy sector.

The IMF executive board authorized a three-year loan, making an initial disbursement of \$540 million available to the Pakistani authorities.

The remaining amount will be evenly paid out over the duration of the program, subject to the completion of quarterly reviews, the Washington-based global lender said.

Economic growth has sputtered in recent years. Gross domestic product growth rose 3.7 percent in 2012 and is forecast to decelerate to 3.5 percent this year and to 3.3 percent in 2014, according to the IMF's latest projections.



BERLIN (AFP) - Fairgoers pass by a tunnel made of washing machines at one of the entrances to the 53rd edition of the IFA (Internationale Funkausstellung) electronics trade fair in Berlin on Wednesday. IFA, Europe's largest consumer electronics and home appliances fair, opens from 6 to 11 September 2013. In addition to smartwatches, smartphones and tablet computers are certain to be a big draw for visitors, as the dividing line between the two becomes more and more blurred, as is demonstrated by growth of so-called "phablets". Electronic household goods, such as state-of-the-art kitchen devices -- from ceramic hot plates to refrigerators -- as well as the latest in flat-screen television sets will also be on display. Sales of flat-screen TVs are beginning to fall off in Germany, so manufacturers are looking to ultra-HD devices to spur consumer demand. Catering to the growing trend to inter-connect all gadgets, Sony will present a new camera lens that can be linked up to a smartphone to transform into a powerful camera. In fact, organisers boast there will be more world premieres at this year's IFA than ever before.

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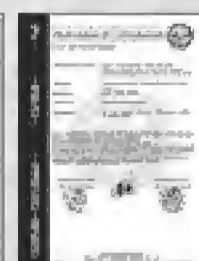
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Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the loveliest pup of all?

GENEVA (AFP) - Huge, tiny, bald, or fluffy, but all groomed to the extreme: more than 11,000 dogs from all over Europe are in Geneva this weekend for the continent's biggest canine beauty pageant.

The small, white fluffy ball of fur with his pointy face and ears will soon enter the ring in a bid to add a European title to the global one he already has under his collar this year.

Teeth, fur, posture: the jury studies every detail, first classing the dogs within each of the 230 races represented at the three-day event, then within 10 groups, and finally, by Sunday night, they will name one dog the loveliest of the lot.

Despite a long list of scientific standards, show organiser Laurent Pichard acknowledges that "a human interpretation of beauty" also plays into the decision.

For the dogs themselves, the road to glory can be uncomfortable: many wait for hours in cages before they are taken out for further hours of grooming, sometimes including the use of curlers, styling products and even perfume.

The long wait is interrupted only by short trips to one of three large outdoor "dog toilets", or walks through a multitude of stands offering



everything from dog food to bead-studded leashes and dog magnets -- sidestepping pools of urine on the floor as they go.

Then in the ring, the pressure is on: the dog first stands still as its impeccably dressed handler adjusts the position of its feet, head, and pulls the tail to make it point upwards.

Then they together walk and run round after round to show off the elegance of the canine's strides.

There are no cash prizes, but the winning "couple" will receive tickets to Orlando, Florida to take part in the world championships there.

Beauty is not the only focus at the show, which also features competitions focused on abilities like "dog-dancing", where dogs and their handlers do

small choreographed dances to music.

Not everyone is as enthusiastic about dog shows.

"Dogs are intelligent and complex animals, and not toys," animal rights group PETA wrote to AFP in an email, describing shows like the one in Geneva as "degrading" and cautioning that the beauty products used could harm the animals' health.

Sylvie Menetrey, a dog trainer and a dog show commentator, disagrees, insisting that the training needed to attend a show is good for the dog's development.

"It's great to love, feed, care for and walk your dog, but dogs have brains and they need to use their brains to learn things," she says, insisting: "It makes them happy."



LINFEN (AFP) - This picture taken on Tuesday shows six-year-old boy, Guo Bin, known as Bin-Bin (L), who was blinded when his eyes were gouged out after he went missing while playing outside on August 24, being held by his mother as she accepts donations from well wishers in a hospital in Taiyuan, north China's Shanxi province. Bin-Bin, who had his eyes gouged out by a woman believed to be his aunt may one day see again after a Hong Kong hospital offered him "electronic eyes".



SANTO DOMINGO (AFP) - Protesters carry placards that read "Obama we ask for justice" as they march towards the US Embassy in Santo Domingo, on Wednesday. The rally was held in support of Miguel Familia, a Dominican who lost his family due to a DNA test performed by the US Embassy. In December 2005, Familia went to the US embassy in Santo Domingo to retrieve his daughter's passport and he was informed that the girl couldn't get a visa because according to a DNA test she wasn't his daughter.



This combination of four pictures shows children on their way to school around the world.

(Top L): A child walks to school in Qunu, a village outside the town of Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, where former South African President Nelson Mandela grew up, in South Africa.

(Top R): Swiss boy Leon, 9, walks to school in Moudon, western Switzerland.

(Bottom L): Colombian indigenous child from the Nasa ethnic group Gari Camayo Pito, 12, (L) and his sister leave home to go to school in the village of Las Guacas, rural area of Florida, Valle del Cauca department, Colombia.

(Bottom R): Kelvin Leadismo, 12, with his schoolbag hanging on his shoulder, tending to his family's cattle near his family's manyatta (traditional home plastered with cow-dung) at Kisima township of Kenya's northern county of Samburu before he heads off at tuition for young shepherds from the Samburu community who are usually unable to attend regular daytime classes, at nearby Loitulelei primary school.



MOQUEGUA : Handout photo released by the Peruvian Center of Operations of National Emergency (COEN), of the Ubinas volcano spewing ashes in Moquegua region, 70 km from Arequipa, Peru yesterday.

Spend a fun evening with friends at Barney's

A few months ago, Palm Beach welcomed a cozy new place that offers good food, great prices and a uniquely warm, welcoming ambiance that makes patrons feel as if they are visiting with friends rather than just eating out. Even the name, "Barney's", which was inspired by Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, is an expression of the good humor of its owners and your hosts, Ron and Elina.

Ron and Elina have a very congenial division of labor; he enjoys being bartender and playing around with his "cocktail of the day" while she sees to it that everyone is well satisfied with their meal. Chef Jan is in the kitchen doing his magic; patrons praise their spicy Firecracker Shrimp appetizer and mushrooms stuffed with escargot, priced at \$9.50 and \$8.50, or the Smoked Trout Fillet for a real gourmet treat.

They are particularly popular for their "Build Your Own Barney Burger" using specially imported organic



A place where you feel like you are with friends

beef from Holland, guaranteed to have been raised without steroids or antibiotics, only \$9.50 with fries and coleslaw. Patrons are handed a special hamburger checklist, which features a full menu of toppings, sauces and cheeses to customize your order to create the ideal burger. One can also opt for a

second or third hamburger patty for a very nominal cost.

High end items on the menu, such as the Seafood Pasta, are only \$20.50. They also have a kid's menu with favorites such as a Kid's Burger, chicken fingers and Mac & Cheese; most items are only \$4. One regular described the place as particu-

larly "kid-friendly," with Elina, a mother herself, having devised a number of methods to keep young ones entertained. The menu has a range to please patrons who are in the mood for something simple while other can be indulgent gourmands.

Tuesday through Saturday

evenings they have specialty nights at bargain rates. Tuesday is Schnitzel Night, with a choice five different kinds of schnitzel with sauces and toppings, only \$17.50. Wednesday is fresh grouper, prepared any of five ways, with veggies and side dish, \$19.50. Thursday enjoy unlimited ribs done three ways honey, smoked or BBQ, for \$17.50 with salad, slaw and fries. Saturday means endless rib eye steak with coleslaw and fries for \$19.50. Friday evening ends the work week with Karaoke Night, a convivial and fun evening when islanders kick back and let loose their inner rock star.

Barney's is located just next to the huge supermarket on the Palm Beach/Noord road, not far from the gas station. They are open from 5:00 to 11:00 PM and closed on Mondays. Check out their full menu at <http://www.barneysaruba.com> or call 586-5420 for reservations and directions.

La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

--Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very se-

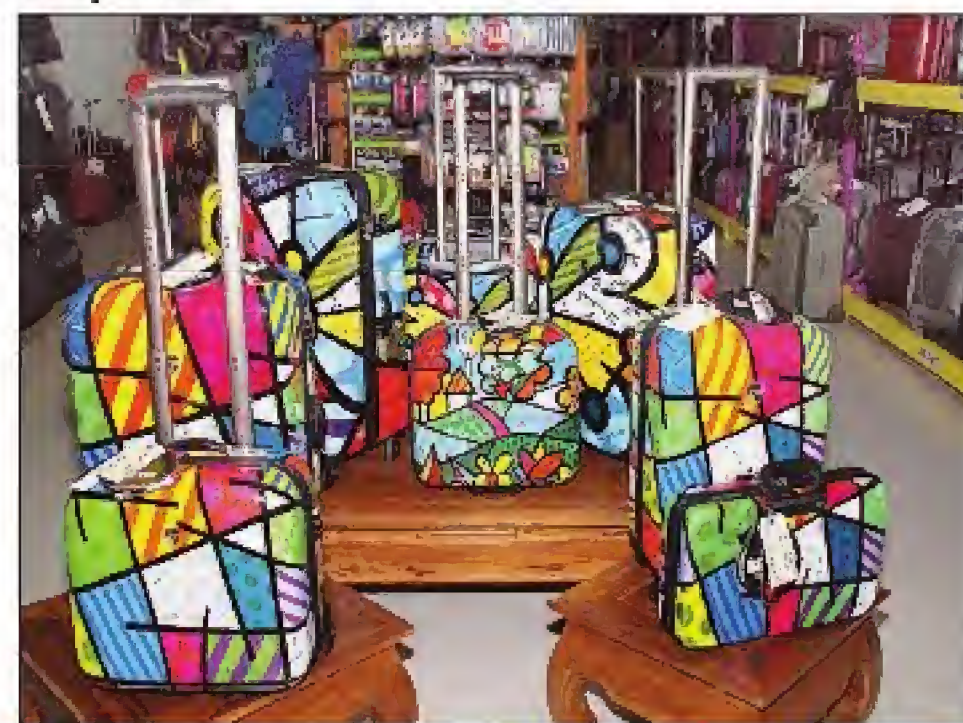
riously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, deco-rative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.



Unique, quality goods in all departments

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!



Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection

SPORTS



--Continuing with the en route to the world of football Brazil, 2014, we'll present today #7- best on the best 20 defender list who with his talent and skill, contributed greatly to his national team.

Robert Frederick Chelsea "Bobby" Moore, OBE (12 April from 1941 - February 24, 1993) was an English footballer of high technical quality, considered one of the best defenses in history, captained West Ham United for about 10 years, and was captain of the England football team in the 1966 World Cup, held in that country.

Born in Barking, a suburb of London in the UK. Moore, the best defense in the history of England, seemed to lack the pace and physical needed to be a good central defender, was not powerful despite its size, light and agile, had a great location and a vision for the



West Ham until at age 32 he went to Fulham FC (along with George Best) and finally traveled to America to play for the Seattle Sounders and the San Antonio Thunder. His friendship with Pele was cemented in 1970 when the two men played a epic battle for supremacy of England in the World Cup against Brazil. Pele said that Moore was the best defense he had played.

Moore Why was someone so special? Many considered him the most complete defense. Powerful in the air, accurate in recovering the ball and impeccable in distribution. It was not a sprinter, but his ability to read the plays made it very difficult to surprise misplaced. In fact, the legendary Celtic manager Jock Stein and joked about it: "They should ban it. Know what is going to happen twenty minutes before everyone else! "

game and I was always one step ahead of the opposing attackers. Your entries were clean and rarely was booked. Moore captained England in 90 games (a record shared with Billy Wright), including victory in the World Cup 1966. He spent most of his career at

NASCAR fines driver's girlfriend for face slap

-- The girlfriend of driver Mike Sken lost her cool following Sunday's NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race in Canada and slapped veteran road racer Max Papis across the face. NASCAR fined Heaphy \$2,500 on Wednesday and banned her from all NASCAR events indefinitely.

According to NASCAR, Heaphy was technically considered part of the team for this race, thus can be subjected to a fine.

It was the slap seen 'round the NASCAR world Sunday when driver Max Papis was hit by rival driver Mike Sken's girlfriend. But Monday Papis announced the slap was a lot



stronger than it looked — claiming it dislocated his jaw.

"Papis and Sken had a little dispute on the track during the truck series race in Ontario. After the race, Sken slams into Papis's truck. Then, one of Sken's crew members tries to get a piece of Papis while he's sitting in the truck.

Shortly after those confrontations — enter Sken's girlfriend. The woman is being identified as Kelly Heaphy. Sken says he didn't know about the slap at the time, but later saw it on TV.

Papis says he's gone to NASCAR officials about the

incidents and isn't ruling out taking legal action for the slap. But believe it or not, this is actually the second slapping-related incident Papis has been involved in this year.

He was on the giving end of this slap to fellow NASCAR driver Elliot Johnson in June. Not surprisingly, Johnson's helmet ward off any jaw dislocations and he was perfectly fine.

Papis finished sixth in the race while Sken finished 13th. The next NASCAR Camping Truck race will take place next Sunday at Iowa Speedway.

NFL: Players union teams with app maker to halt drunk driving

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The NFL players union is taking action to reduce the number of drunk driving incidents involving its members by teaming up with smart phone transportation app maker Uber.

The partnership announced Wednesday will see NFL players in 17 of the 31 cities that have teams able to use the Uber app to summon rides for themselves or family members.

Drunk driving incidents involving players have made many headlines, including a crash last December in which Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman Josh Brent was behind the wheel and teammate and friend Jerry Brown died.

Brent has pleaded not guilty to intoxication manslaughter but could face

up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

A statement released by the NFL Players Association said every player in the league will receive key chain cards containing ride credits for the specially tailored program.

NFLPA player representative Zak De Ossie of the New York Giants said the partnership is not only good for players but can also promote responsibility among fans by example.

The deal is a first with a sports organization for Uber, whose technology is available in 40 cities worldwide. Some US cities, including Houston and Miami, don't allow use of Uber's Global Positioning System-based technology because of regulatory issues.



-- With Mark Sanchez's shoulder injury Jets will start rookie Geno Smith at QB in their season opener against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers this weekend. Smith, a second-round pick in this year's National Football League draft out of West Virginia University, was competing with Sanchez during training camp. Smith, 22, completed 22 of 37 passing attempts during the preseason for 246 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions. Sanchez, who is guaranteed \$8.25 million this season, has a bruised joint in his throwing shoulder, according to ESPN. Ryan said Sanchez will remain on the active roster.



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TENNIS: US OPEN

NEW YORK (AFP) - French eighth seed Richard Gasquet (31) reached his first US Open semi-final yesterday with a rollercoaster 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 2-6, 6-4 win over David Ferrer, the Spanish fourth seed.

Gasquet, whose only previous appearance in the last four at a major was at Wimbledon in 2007, is the first Frenchman to get to the semi-finals in New York since Cedric Pioline in 1999.

It was only his second win in 10 meetings with Ferrer, a series which had also seen him claim just two sets out of 20.

Gasquet had played the longest match of the tournament to see off Milos Raonic in the fourth round but he showed no ill effects from that



four-hour-40-minute slugfest as he raced through the first two sets against Ferrer.

While in women's, Italy's 83rd-ranked Flavia Pennetta advanced to the final four at a Grand Slam for the first time by beating 10th-seeded compatriot Roberta Vinci 6-4, 6-1.

Pennetta, the fourth-worst ranked of any US Open women's semi-finalist ever, will next face the winner of the match between Belarus second seed Victoria Azarenka

and Slovakia's 48th-ranked Daniela Hantuchova.

Pennetta, who has not lost a set in the tournament and has dropped only 25 games in five matches, owns a 3-2 career edge against Hantuchova and has split two matches with two-time reigning Australian Open champion Azarenka.

Top-ranked defending champion Serena Williams and Chinese fifth seed Li Na will meet in Friday's other semi-final at Arthur Ashe Stadium.



PHOENIX (AFP) - The Phoenix Suns ended their brief but turbulent tenure with Michael Beasley by releasing the former No. 2 overall draft pick on Tuesday. Beasley signed a three-year, \$18 million deal with the Suns in July 2012 but he never lived up to the National Basketball Association team's expectations. In his only season with the Suns, the 24-year-old Beasley averaged career lows of 10.1 points and 3.8 rebounds in 75 games. His problems extended off the court as well as Phoenix police investigated him in January in connection with an alleged sexual assault at his home. He was also arrested last month for alleged marijuana possession and possession of drug paraphernalia following a traffic stop. Beasley began his NBA career with Miami in 2008 and spent two seasons with the Heat before being dealt to Minnesota.

Baseball: Pirates break string of losing seasons



MILWAUKEE (AFP) - The Pittsburgh Pirates snapped a streak of 20 straight losing seasons in Major League Baseball by beating the Milwaukee Brewers 4-3 at Miller Park on Tuesday.

Travis Snider lifted the Pirates to their 81st win of the season by blasting a lead off home run in the ninth inning in front of a crowd of 25,558. The Pirates have 57 losses and a .587 winning percentage with just over three weeks left in the regular season.

Snider's pinch-hit blast to

right-centre field off Brewers ace Jim Henderson was the lone hit that didn't come from the Pirates' 3-4-5 batting order combo of Andrew McCutchen, Justin Morneau and Marlon Byrd.

The trio finished seven-for-10, with McCutchen smashing his 100th career homer and Byrd earning two RBIs.

Pittsburgh is now two games up on St. Louis for first place in the National League Central. The Cardinals lost to the Reds in Cincinnati earlier Tuesday.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	83	57	.593	--
TAMPA	76	61	.555	5.5
YANKEES	74	64	.536	8.0
BALTIMORE	73	64	.533	8.5
TORONTO	64	75	.460	18.5

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	81	58	.583	--
CLEVELAND	73	65	.529	7.5
KANSAS	72	66	.522	8.5
MINNESOTA	61	76	.445	19.0
CHICAGO	56	81	.409	24.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	80	58	.580	--
OAKLAND	79	59	.572	1.0
LA ANGELES	64	73	.467	15.5
SEATTLE	62	76	.449	18.0
HOUSTON	45	93	.326	35.0

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	85	54	.612	--
WASHINGTON	70	68	.507	14.5
NY METS	63	75	.457	21.5
PHILADELPHIA	63	76	.453	22.0
MIAMI	52	85	.380	32.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
PITTSBURGH	81	57	.587	--
ST. LOUIS	79	59	.572	2.0
CINCINNATI	78	71	.561	3.5
MILWAUKEE	59	79	.428	22.0
CHICAGO	58	80	.420	23.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
DODGERS	83	55	.601	--
ARIZONA	69	68	.504	13.5
COLORADO	65	75	.464	19.0
SAN DIEGO	62	76	.449	21.0
SAN FRANCISCO	61	77	.442	22.0

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

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Athletics: Bolt mulls retirement after 2016 Olympics

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Jamaican track star Usain Bolt is considering retiring after the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, he said Wednesday.

But any plans for going out to grass at the age of 30 would come after three more years of domination that might include a pop at the Commonwealth Games next year and another shot at bettering his own 200m world record.

Bolt has dominated the competitive world of sprinting since claiming three gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Games but hinted ahead of Friday's season-ending Diamond League meet in Brussels that Rio would be his third and last.

Bolt also hinted that bettering his own world record of 19.19sec in the 200m, his favoured event, could be on the cards as well.



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Aruba's Xander Bogaerts: USA TODAY Sports' Minor League Player of the Year

-- Aruba born Boston Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts has been named USA Today's Minor League Player of the Year for his work dismantling Double- and Triple-A pitching this season, reports Jorge L. Ortiz of USA Today.

Bogaerts is the first Red Sox player to win the honor since USA TODAY began awarding it in 1988.

The official release announcing the award stated "the fast climb to the majors, his standout season and obvious tools made Bogaerts' the logical choice as USA TODAY Sports' Minor League Player of the Year." Bogaerts, 20, began the year with Double-A Portland.

Bogaerts was thrilled when he heard of the award.

Bogaerts has won a bevy of awards in his time in the minor leagues. He was twice named to the All-Star Futures Game, and earned All-Star recognition in both the Dominican Summer League in 2010 and Carolina League in 2012. When he made his major league debut in San Francisco, Bogaerts became the first 20-year old to play



for the Red Sox since Dwight Evans in 1972.

Bogaerts signed with the Red Sox as an international free agent in August 2009. He made his professional debut in 2010 with the Dominican Summer League (DSL) Red Sox, where he batted .314 with a .396 on-base percentage (OBP) and .423 slugging percentage (SLG). He led the DSL Red Sox in batting average, hits (75), home runs (3), runs batted in (RBI) (42), total bases (101), slugging and on-base plus slugging (OPS). He was fifth in the DSL in RBI and tenth in total bases. He had a .929 fielding percentage. The next year, at age 18, he played in a full-season league for the Greenville Drive of the Class A South Atlantic League, with a .260 batting average, .324 OBP and .509 SLG, fielding .924 and hitting 16 home runs in 72 games. He then joined the Dutch national team for the 2011 Baseball World Cup, winning the gold medal.

During the 2012 season he started out in Class-A and ended up playing with the Portland Sea Dogs of the

Class AA Eastern League. He was named to appear in the 2012 All-Star Futures Game. He played for the Netherlands national baseball team in the 2013 World Baseball Classic.

Entering 2013, Bogaerts ranked 20th in the MLB.com Top 100 Prospects list, and 8th in the Baseball America Top 100 Prospects list. He started the season with Portland and was promoted to Pawtucket Red Sox of the Class AAA International League in mid-June.

Bogaerts hit .297/.388/.477 with 15 home runs in 116 games between Portland and Pawtucket while playing solid defense up the middle, ultimately earning himself a promotion to the big leagues at the end of August. He has carried that success with him to the Red Sox so far, notching six hits in his first 20 plate appearances.

Bogaerts is the fifth player from Aruba to reach the majors.

The Morning News Aruba congratulates Xander with this award.

Keep up the good work.